

STOP THE INVASION- REPORT THIS PEST

Common Mullein

Maui County Priority Pest for Maui, Lanai, and Molokai:

Common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*)

is perennial plant can grow in sunny high altitude (5,000-10,000 ft). This plant has already invaded high elevation areas of the island of Hawaii, crowding out native plants. This plant grows quickly and produces large amounts of seeds which can live in the soil for 100 years.

Identification

Height- 3 m (10 ft) tall by the second year

Flowers- Yellow

Leaves- form a rosette, blue-gray felt-like; 10-30 cm (4-12 in) long and 2-12 cm (1-5 in) wide; rounded tip



1st year common mullein



Common mullein can grow to 10 ft high!



Flower detail

Don't mistake common mullein for these look-alikes:



Telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*):

Telegraph weed grows in sunny, high altitude areas of Maui County. Plants form a rosette of hairy leaves which may be confused with common mullein. Telegraph weed's leaves have pointed tips and a strong, sagey smell when crushed.

Primrose (*Oenothera* species):

Primrose grows in sunny, high altitude areas of Maui County. They form a rosette of slightly hairy leaves which may be confused with common mullein. Primroses have lance-like leaves with pointed tips versus the rounded tip of the common mullein. Produce large, showy flowers up to 5 cm (2 in) across.



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